

**MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 13, 2023**

Bellevue City Council met on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:40 p.m. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer was offered by Council President, Mr. Smith. Council members present: MR. BAKER, MS. DOWNING, MR. HILL, MRS. OMMERT, MR. SHEPHERD, MR. WALDRUP and MR. WYNBISSINGER.

Minutes of the regular City Council meeting of February 27, 2023 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Waldrup to approve the minutes as written. It was seconded by Ms. Downing. All were in favor. The minutes are approved as written.

President Smith welcomed Boy Scout Troop 203, High School government class members, and Scott Miller, Sandusky County Commissioner.

**REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:**

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone**, stated that the money needed for recycling is already in the budget. Some of the money saved from this year's contract with Barnes Nursery will also help pay for recycling.

Omni Fiber is currently connecting citizens this week in some areas. When they hook someone up, the line stays on top of the ground at first. The next crew installs them. The next crew buries the line and covers it up. It is all done in shifts. In the spring crews from Omni will be back around with a list of the areas they need to clean up. He was asked about positive or negative feedback of Omni Fiber services. He stated one person who was hooked up over the weekend loves how fast it is.

Mrs. Ommert inquired how deep the trenches would be dug for the cables. Mr. Brugnone stated only a few inches.

This is the time of year when potholes pop up. The Street Dept. will be out throughout the spring fixing them. If anyone has any complaints, send him an email, he will notify the Street Dept., and the crews are good at getting out there within a day or so.

**REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**Mr. Waldrup** stated that also in attendance tonight is Boy Scout Troop 204. One of their requirements is to ask a question to a Council member. Be prepared because you don't know what question you may get.

He has spoken with Mayor Strecker and Safety-Service Director, Mr. Brugnone, about the EMS contract and inquired if our levy is going to cover what they are looking at for the next contract.

**Mr. Baker** stated that this is not a City issue, but a school issue. Some people have brought to his attention the line at the elementary school and the double lines that go with it and how people are starting to go left of center to get around the traffic. He doesn't know if there is something the City can do but citizens are concerned about possible accidents. Mr. Brugnone stated he can make some calls and get back with him about it.

Mr. Baker stated that when Omni Fiber goes to the various neighborhoods, they leave a lot of garbage like five gallon buckets, waiter bottles, gallon jugs, etc. He isn't talking about

mud tracks, but garbage. Mr. Brugnone stated there is a crew that is supposed to come by at night and pick up all the trash. One problem is they take it out to their work site at 308. He makes calls about once a week to have the garbage removed from there. They talked with Omni today and they are looking at possibly using the old hospital parking lot to put the trash bins.

Mr. Baker inquired if the building across from the hospital is within City limits. They have a dentist office, an ATM and a credit union there. Mr. Brugnone stated it is within City limits. Mr. Baker stated that there is no stop sign coming out of the driveway where the ATM and dentist office is. He inquired if it is a private drive and whose responsibility it is. There have been several near accidents. Mr. Brugnone stated it is a private drive.

When he returned from his vacation he was advised that 308 had been blocked by a train for 2-3 days with no break. They can break the cars and open up the road. The trains can't be stopped for that amount of time blocking roads.

**Mr. Hill** stated on behalf of Amy Palsa that they have a slide down damaged by vandalism at Robert Peters Park. They blocked it off and are trying to get it repaired. Also, there was an accident at Jungle Junction where a little girl slipped on one of the apparatuses and broke her arm. Amy had to shut Jungle Junction down on Thursday because once someone gets hurt they have to have the State come in and re-inspect. The inspection was done on Friday morning. Everything was fine when they re-inspected it. There are so many parties scheduled that it is difficult to have down time. This is a very functioning facility which is a real asset to the City and a great income source for the Rec Center.

Another item is that the Rec Center has some PPE money left over and they are looking at doing new stone all the way around the track at Robert Peters Park and new blacktop in front of the Rec Center. Amy also has a new playground in the works for Robert Peters Park.

The Rec Club is now up and functioning again. They help her with projects. Great things are going on and he thanked Amy for her hard work.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Mr. Shepherd** stated that a Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting was held prior to the last City Council meeting on February 27 where they discussed the possibility of implementing a sidewalk replacement program. It ran short and he didn't get a chance to hear from all Council members. He would like to revisit the idea perhaps this summer. He requested members to ask around to see if there is any interest in fixing our sidewalks. Last week he had the Clerk send a copy of a letter Norwalk sent to their residents. If there is any interest, let him know.

**Mrs. Ommert** reminded everyone that a **Budget & Finance Committee** meeting has been scheduled prior to the next meeting on March 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., to discuss finalizing the permanent budget.

**President Smith** stated that a Committee of the Whole work session was held tonight at 7:00 p.m., where possible recycling services for Bellevue was discussed. Representatives from Rumpke Waste & Recycling were in attendance and gave a presentation regarding their services.

## CITIZEN COMMENTS:

**Scott Miller, Sandusky County Commissioner**, reported that the County is in great shape and has a great budget for 2023. There is a lot going on. We have some new cruisers coming in for the Sheriff's Department. We have a new boat for patrolling the 17 miles of waterways and any rescues that may be needed. The County will be repairing 16 miles of roads, which usually costs \$100,000.00 per mile, but this year it is up to \$150,000.00 per mile. The County has been inspecting bridges and some are in need of repair. He stated that Sandusky County is rated Number 7 in the nation for being a great metropolitan area. Bellevue is a great part of the community.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

**President Smith** stated that Mayor Strecker and Treasurer, Mr. Freitag, are excused from the meeting tonight.

He read a letter he received from Mr. Sabo regarding the Tax Incentive Review Committee (TIRC) annual compliance review. Mr. Wallingford explained that this is something that is done annually. Dave Sabo attends these meetings where they review any enterprise zones (which we have only one left at this point), discuss commercial CRA's and residential CRA's. There will be a motion of Council to approve the TIRC recommendations to continue as we have been as everything is in order. We have information we will email out this Wednesday to Council members. The minutes are not available at this time. If they become available, we will also send a copy of those. The motion to approve their recommendations is due by the end of the month so at the next meeting on March 27, we will need a motion to approve the TIRC recommendations. He stated he appreciates Mr. Sabo's efforts in attending the meeting and getting us the information.

President Smith then turned the time over to Mr. Wallingford for tonight's legislation.

## LEGISLATION:

**Ordinance No. 5-23 was given its second reading by title only:** AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, STATE OF OHIO, DURING FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**Ordinance No. 6-23 was given its second reading by title only:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH BARNES NURSERY, INC., FOR COMPOST SERVICES AND DUMPSTER SERVICES WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Waldrup to suspend the rules and give Ordinance No. 6-23 its third reading by title only, and as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

**Ordinance No. 6-23 was given its third reading by title only:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO CONTRACT WITH BARNES NURSERY, INC., FOR COMPOST SERVICES AND DUMPSTER SERVICES WITHOUT BID UNDER OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 735.051, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion was made by Mr. Waldrup to adopt Ordinance No. 6-23, and as an emergency. It was seconded by Mr. Hill. A vote was taken. Motion passed by a vote of 6-1, Mr. Shepherd, nay.

**Ordinance No. 7-23 was given its second reading by title only:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR AND/OR MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BELLEVUE FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES NO. 490, FOR THE CONDUCTING OF INSTANT BINGO FOR FUNDRAISING FOR THE CITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

CLOSING REMARKS:

**Mr. Baker** inquired of Commissioner Miller if emergency funds coming back to Bellevue out of sales tax that we pay has materialized. Commissioner Miller stated that he is going to a meeting tomorrow and he can find out and pass on the information to us.

**Safety-Service Director, Mr. Bruqnone**, thanked Mr. Waldrup for attending the meeting for the EMS contract and making sure we have everything in order before the levy comes up.

**President Smith** thanked everyone for attending and requested a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baker and seconded by Mr. Wynbissinger. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Ronald Smith**  
**President of Council**

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**Rhonda R. Soper**  
**Clerk of Council**